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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More Frederick County Students are Abusing Prescription Drugs

(Frederick County, MD, June 4, 2014) – Last week, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released an analysis of the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey of Frederick County middle and high school students. The report shows that four percent of sixth graders, seven percent of eighth graders, eleven percent of ninth graders and twenty-four percent of twelfth graders in Frederick County have admitted to taking a prescription drug (such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) without a doctor's prescription.

Commissioner Shreve, along with the collaborative efforts of the Frederick County Health Department, the Sheriff's Office, Frederick County Public Schools and elected officials, feel that it is vitally important to continue to address this serious drug problem. "Seeing this data is truly alarming and proves that we must keep up the fight against prescription drug abuse," stated Commissioner Billy Shreve.

Commissioner Shreve stated, "Almost all statistics are showing increases in use in both prescription and illegal narcotics. It is imperative that every adult, every parent, every leader in our community, should do everything in our power to educate today's youth on the dangers of improper use of drugs and medications."

If you need immediate help please call the 24 hour Crisis and Intervention Hot Line by Dialing 211, or the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1029. If you have a life threatening emergency dial 911.

For more information, please visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/drugawareness or contact Commissioner Billy Shreve at 301-600-1100 or Billy@FrederickCountyMD

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